Crisis in the readymade garment industry

*197. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the garments industry is facing a severe export crisis due to accumulation of huge quantities of readymade garments;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken to provide further incentives to the garment industry to ensure that foreign exchange earnings of Government are maximised by export of garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) There has been some accumulation of garment consignments on account of congestion at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi. The following remedial measures have been taken to ease the congestion:—

(i) The validity dates for shipment of cargo for all consignments have been extended whenever necessary.

(ii) The International Airport Authority has augmented the cargo space.

(iii) Airlines have been permitted to operate additional flights for lifting export cargo.

(iv) The conditions of carting order have been liberalised.

Grant of recognition to approved agents of IATA by regional passport office, New Delhi

*198. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approved agents of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have recently lodged a protest against the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi for observing two sets of rules for granting recognition to agents;

(b) whether it is a fact that several agents have been requesting the authorities for granting recognition; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not granting recognition to them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recognition for dealing with Passport Offices is granted to travel agents on the basis of criteria laid down in this regard. Those agencies which do not fulfil the criteria are not granted recognition till such time as they meet all the requirements. A copy of the criteria for recognition is being laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 59.]

Cut in U.S. aid to India

*199. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Mr. Robert Peck, the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State that the Reagan administration was opposed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee's proposal for a cut of 15 million dollar aid to India and if so, whether Government have received any message in this connection from the United States; and

(b) whether this issue has been taken up with United States Administration?